

Human Trafficking Research and Data: A Nebraska Perspective

Nebraska Children's Summit

September 8, 2016



WOMEN'S FUND
of OMAHA

RESEARCH, GRANTS, ADVOCACY to improve the lives and women and girls

Sex Trafficking Initiative

1. Responsible research
2. Public awareness
3. Investing in and partnering to develop and expand services

The Human Trafficking Initiative (HTI)

Data Science Lab, Creighton University

Use **data science** to collect, analyze, and evaluate the scope of sex trafficking in the US and to identify effective policy solutions

1. Collect/ scrape data on the commercial sex market
2. Build algorithms to generate characteristics about the market
3. Predict trafficking victims
4. Identify known victims to train prediction algorithms


Caveat of Language

“**Victim**” and “**Survivor**” are used interchangeably to provide consistency with statutory language and cross-agency terminology.

We recognize that individuals who have experienced trafficking are **survivors at all stages** of their abuse and recovery and are not defined by their victimization.

Objectives

- Understand Needs Assessment and Capacity Survey Results
- Understand the online commercial sex market and empirical data regarding trafficking in Nebraska
- Learn how to respond and combat this issue through a survivor lens

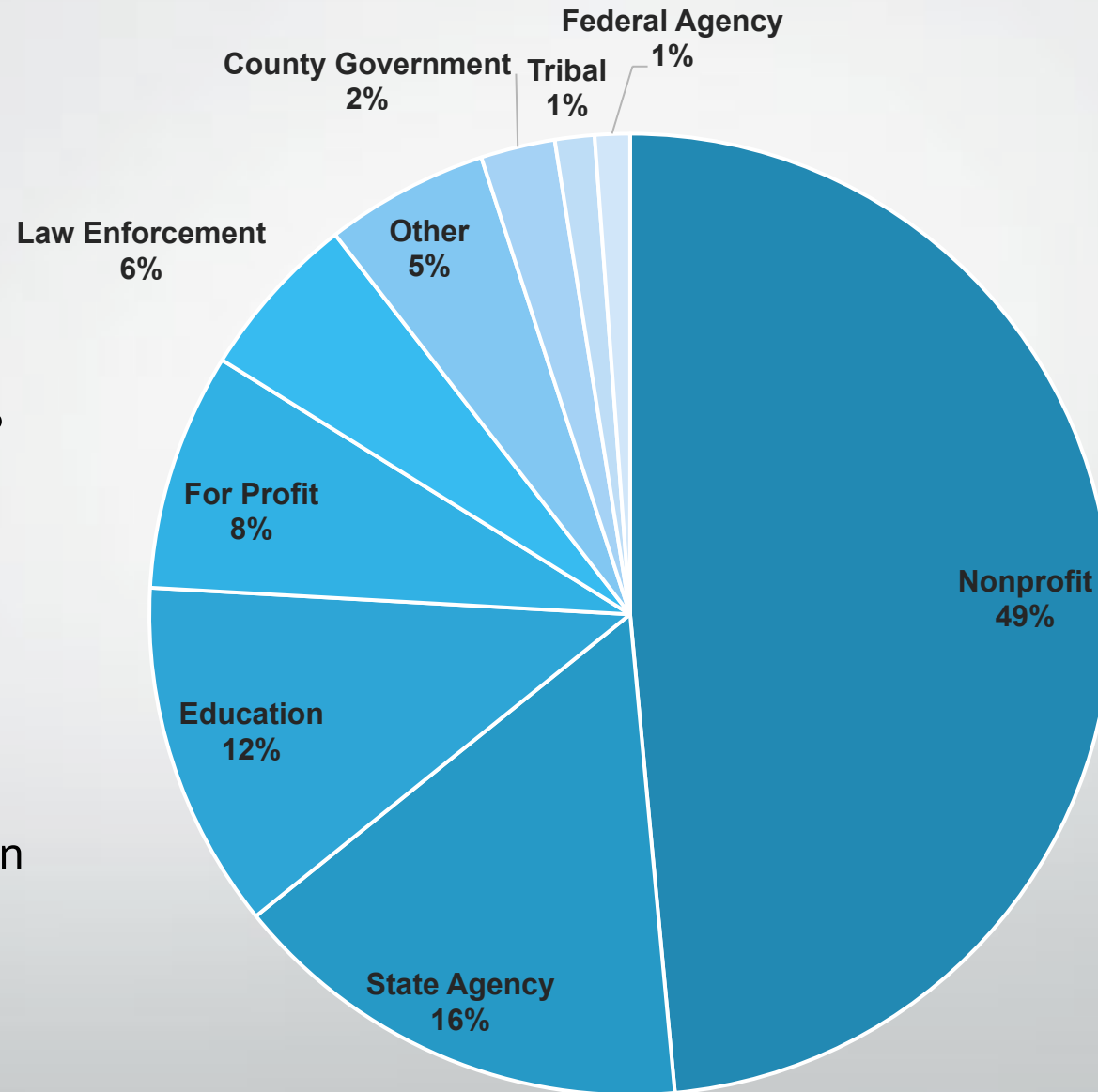


Needs Assessment and Capacity Survey Data

August 2015

Who is taking the survey?
677 total responses

Nonprofits	For profits
State agencies	Tribal
Law Enforcement	Education
Federal agencies	Other



Type of Agency

57%

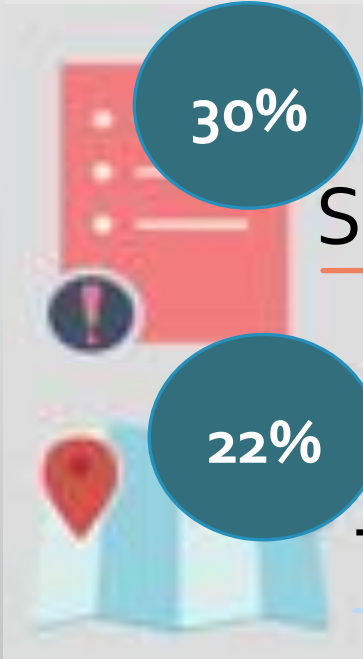
believe trafficking is a problem in their
community

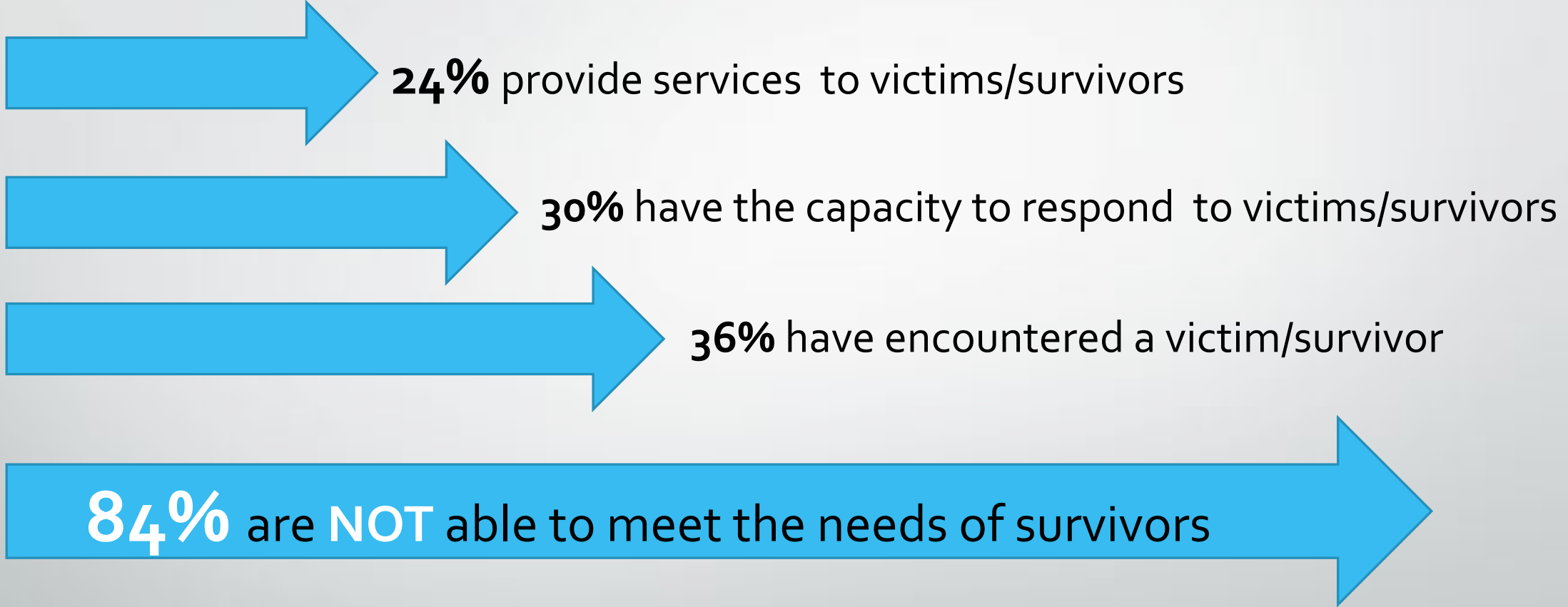
30%

Screen for indicators of trafficking

22%

Track the victims they encounter





24% provide services to victims/survivors

30% have the capacity to respond to victims/survivors

36% have encountered a victim/survivor

84% are **NOT** able to meet the needs of survivors

What barriers exist for providing & seeking services?

49%

Providers cite an **institutional lack of knowledge** about the services needed and available to victims

Barriers for Victims/Survivors



Respondents say that survivors seek:



Emergency shelter

51%



Mental health services

50%



Crisis intervention

50%



Nebraska's Online Commercial Sex Market & Trafficking

August 2016

Language Caveat

In research and academia the term “**Sex worker**” is commonly used and accepted when describing the commercial sale of sex. The use of this term **does not disregard the degree of coercion** often involved in the sale of commercial sex, but rather seeks to **recognize the continuum of agency** that exists in the sex trade. We know that **pimps and traffickers often exercise significant control** over the lives of sex workers.

Trafficking & Backpage

Market hub

- 80% of online commercial sex advertising

Child sex trafficking

- Backpage turns over 400 potential minors monthly

TÈEN BBW💖💋🍑 Daddy's girl👄👀 Sweet HiGh SKoOI Girl

Posted: Saturday, May 21, 2016 3:04 PM

[REDACTED] 🍑 Sweet, Young, & Submissive🍑 My goal is

Exxxtra small exxxtra tight xxxx💋 - 18

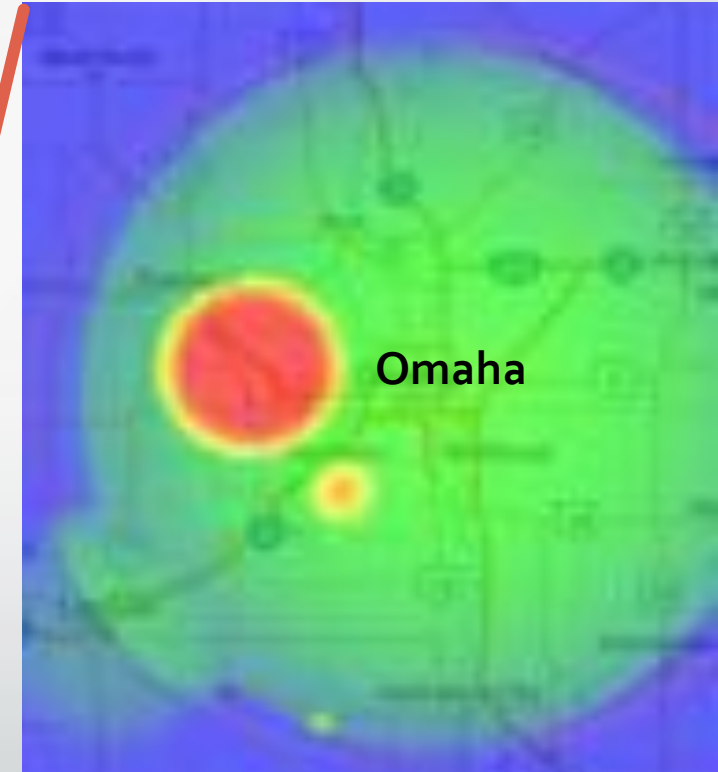
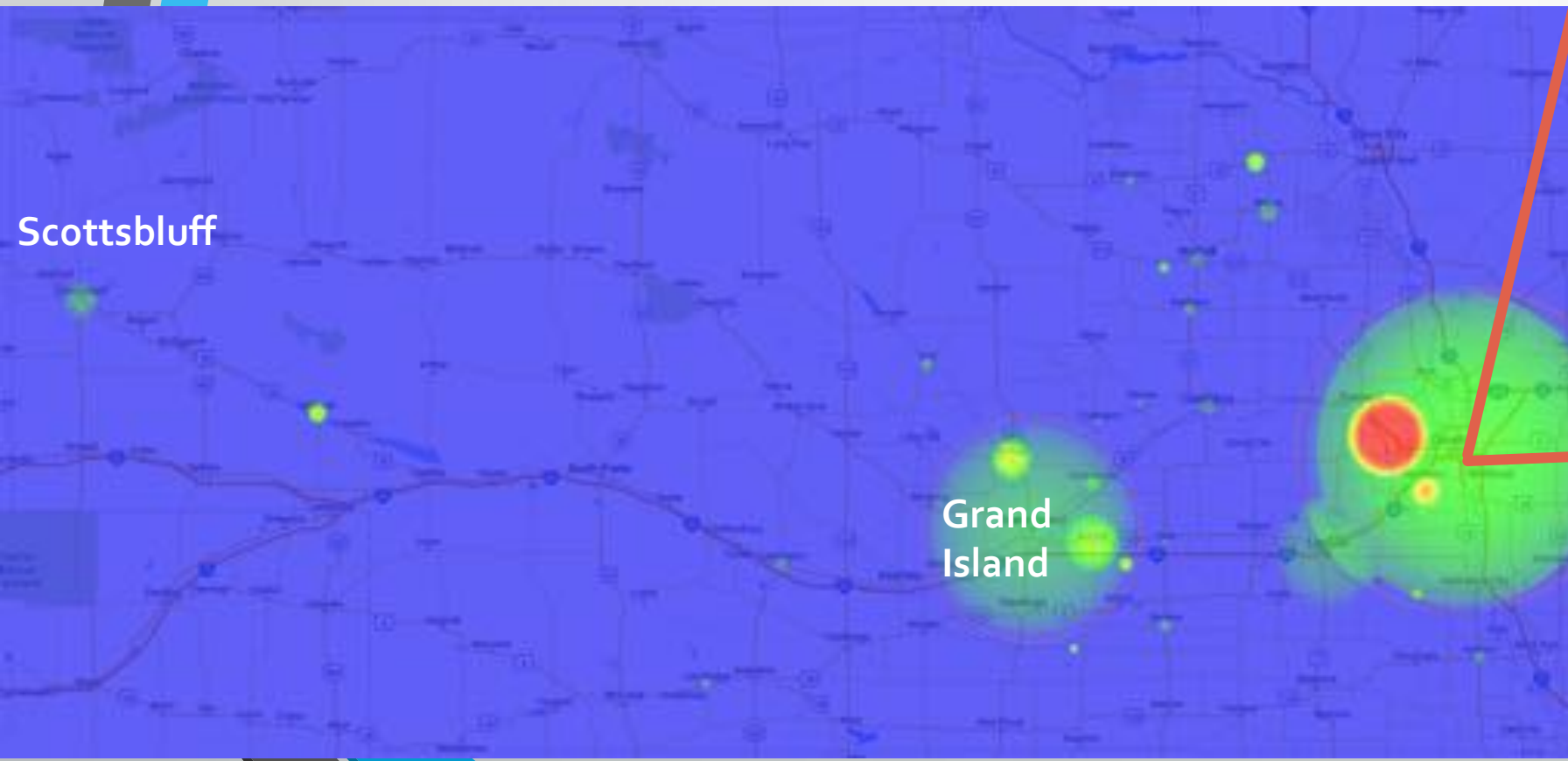
Posted: Friday, June 24, 2016 4:59 PM

Want a good time with a tiny baby let me know [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

💖💖💖 Just turned 18 yesterday 💋 Get you a new tight one [REDACTED]

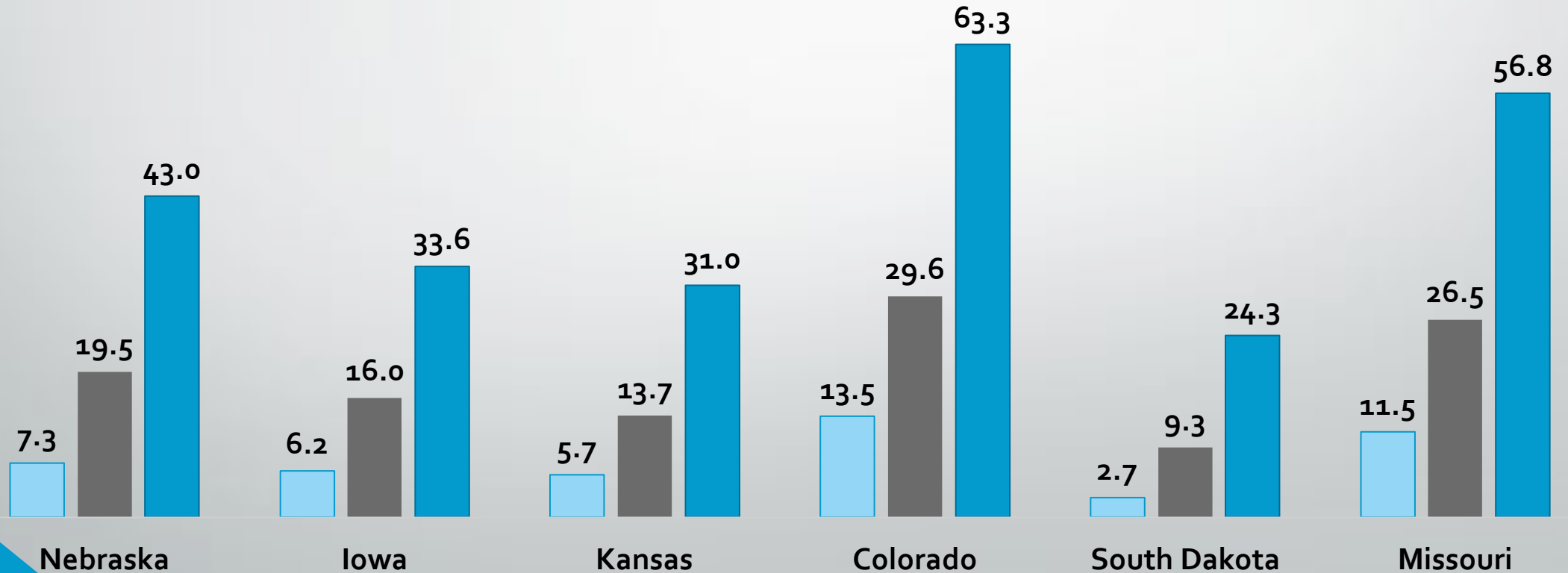
Online Commercial Sex across Nebraska



Nebraska in Comparison

Sex Workers per 100,000 Inhabitants by State

□ Daily Average ■ Weekly Average ■ Monthly Average





of Unique Sex Workers per Month

Nebraska: 797

Omaha: 610

Lincoln: 172

Grand Island: 44

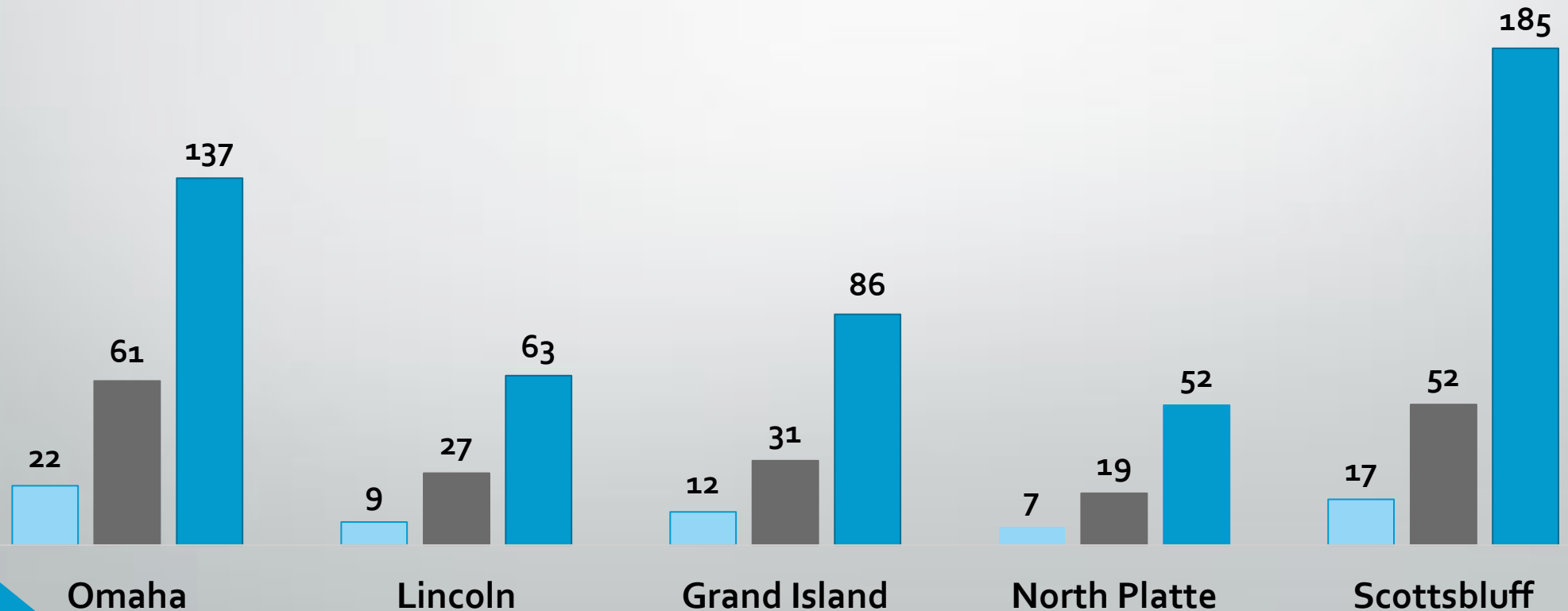
North Platte: 13

Scottsbluff: 28

Nebraska's Cities in Comparison

Sex Workers per 100,000 inhabitants

■ Daily Avg. ■ Weekly Avg. ■ Monthly Avg.



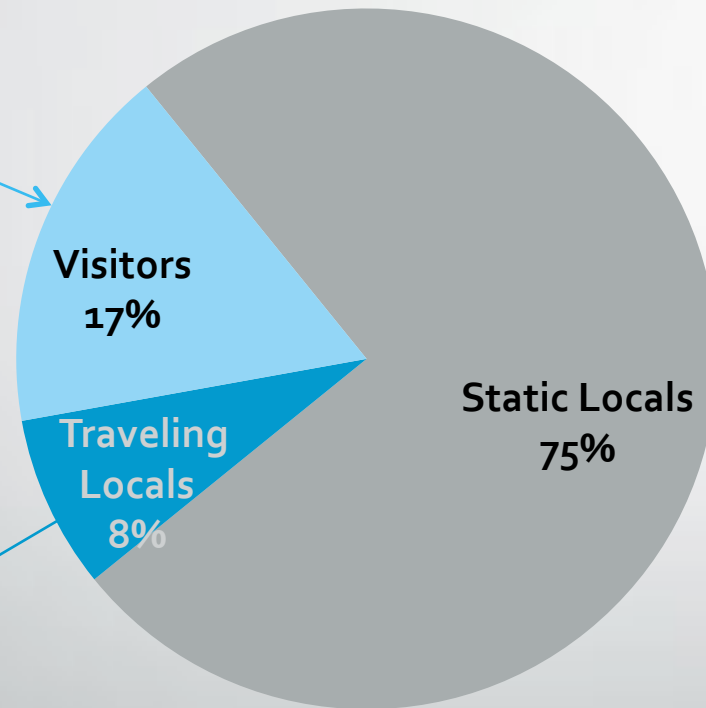
An Interconnected Market

Where do they come from?

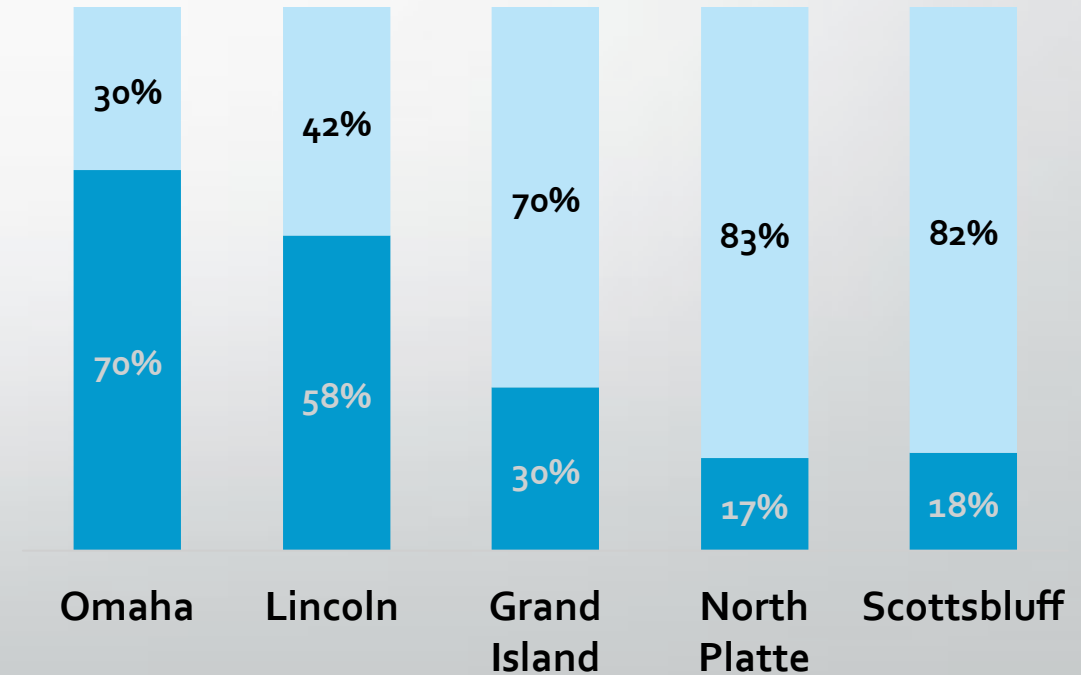
1. Iowa (15%)
2. Missouri (10%)
3. Colorado (8%)
4. Texas (7%)
5. California (7%)

Where do they go?

1. Iowa (25%)
2. South Dakota (11%)
3. Missouri (10%)
4. Colorado (7%)
5. California (5%)

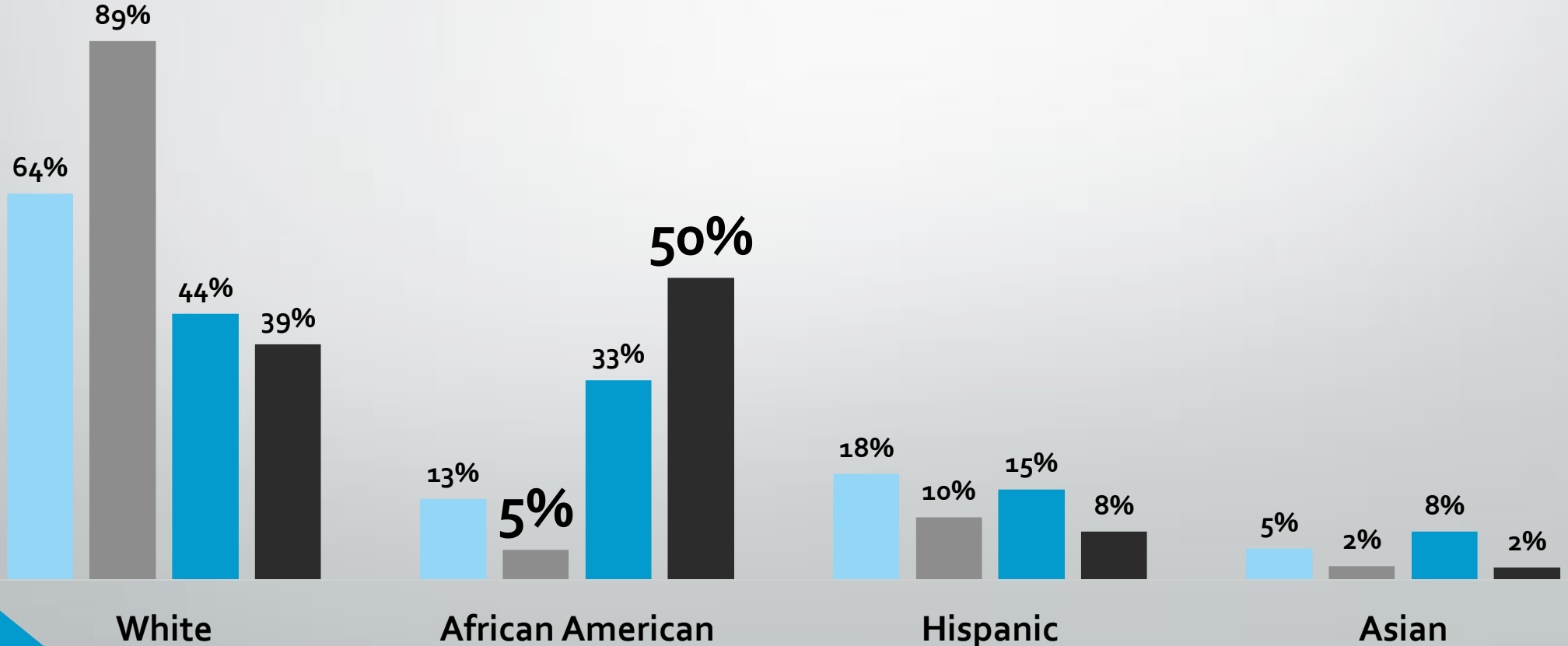


Static Transient



A Racially Imbalanced Market

US Pop NE Pop US Backpage NE Backpage



A Young Market

12% advertised under the age of 21

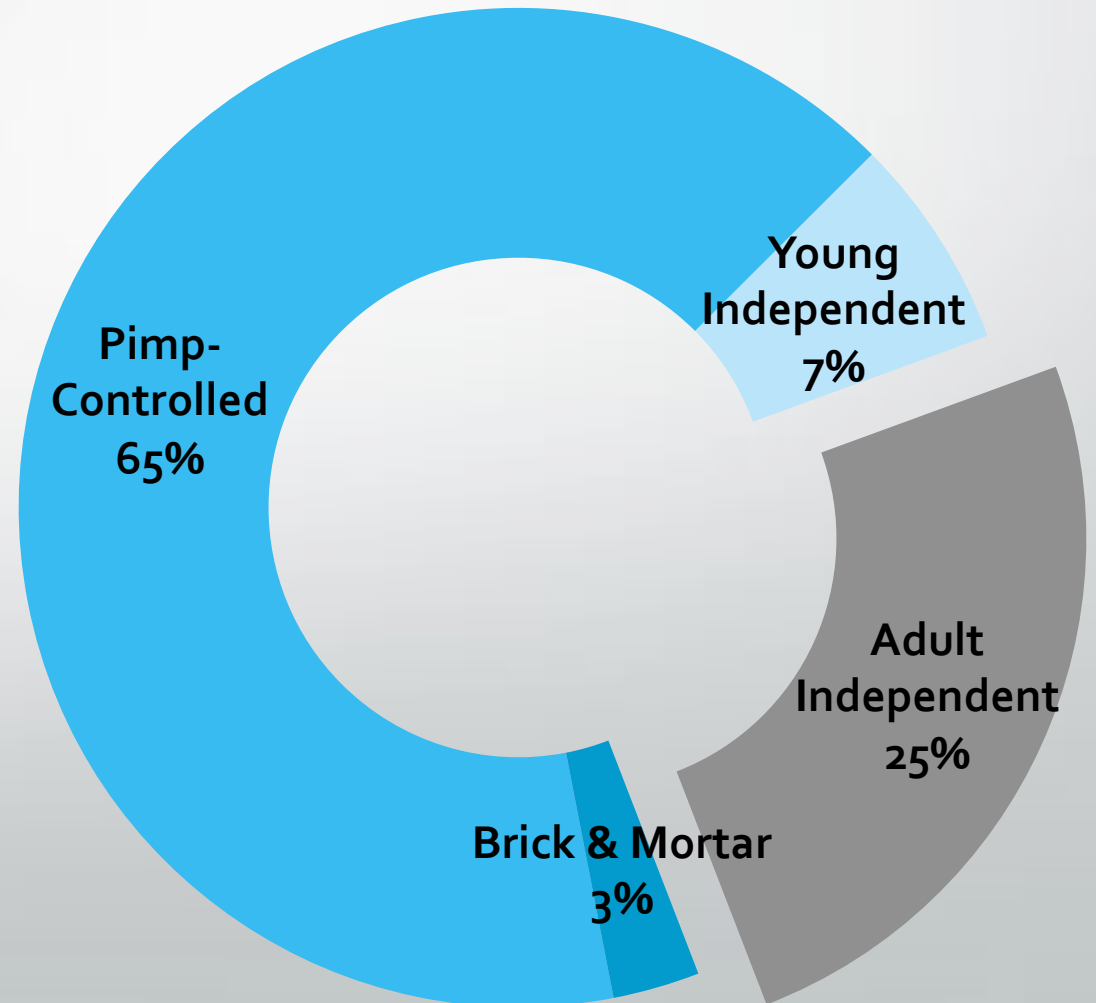
- *More than **1 out of every 10** sex workers in Nebraska is too young to purchase alcohol, but old enough for johns to purchase sex from them*

20% advertised as very young based on keywords & posted age

- “just turned 18”
- “fresh meat”
- “virgin”

Indicators of Trafficking

75% of Nebraska sex workers show indicators of potential trafficking





SURVIVOR INFORMED

NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

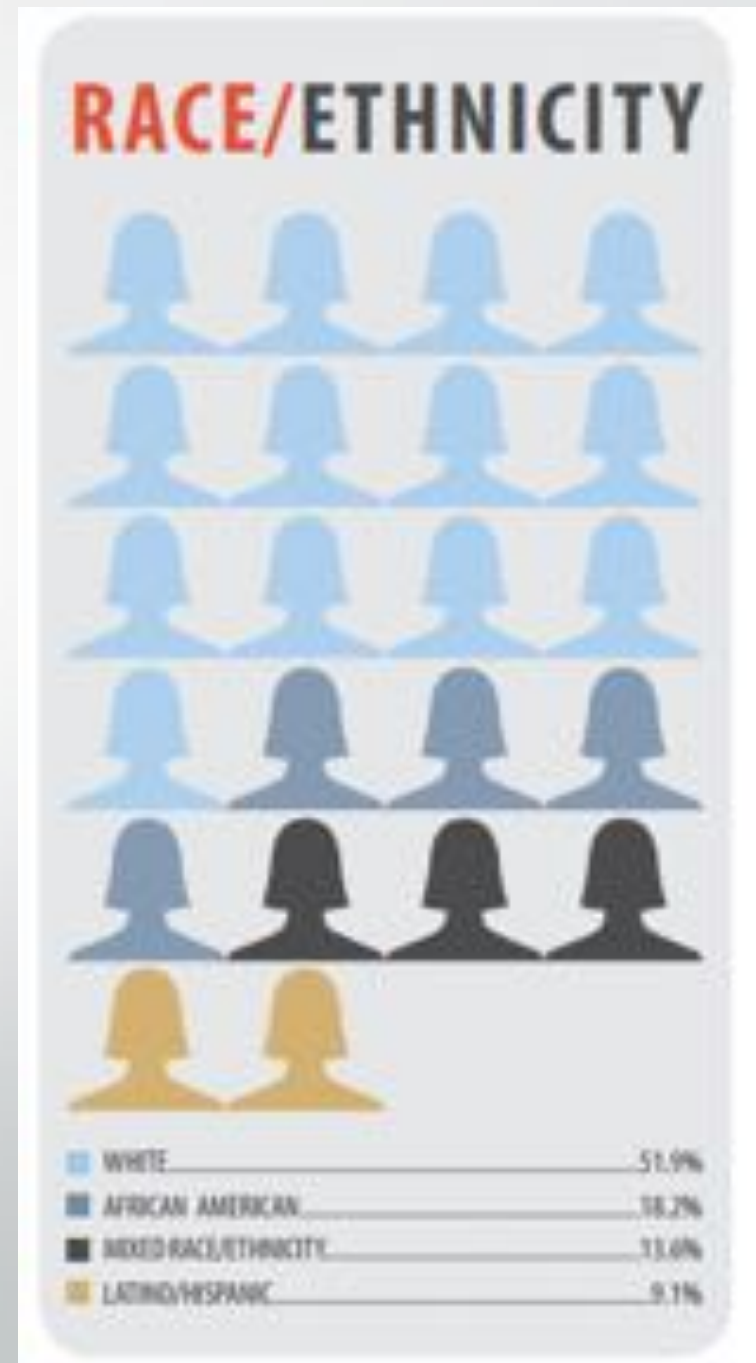
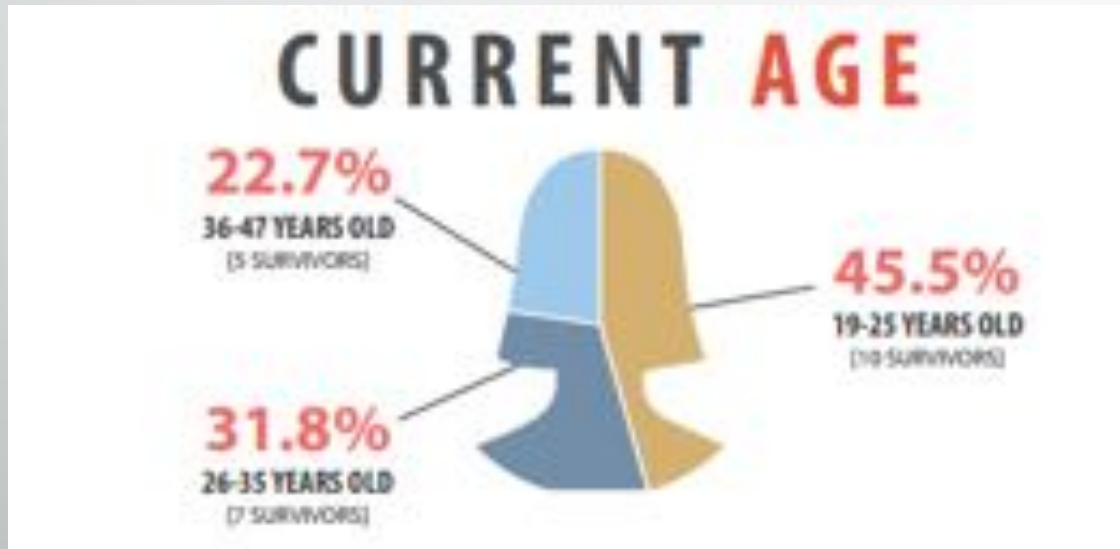
Rajaram, S.S. & Tidball, S. (2016). Nebraska Survivor's Speak – A Qualitative Study. Preliminary Report submitted to the Women's Fund of Omaha

NOTHING ABOUT **WITHOUT US**

SEX TRAFFICKING IN NEBRASKA: THE SURVIVOR VOICE



22 Local Survivors Interviewed



LIVING SITUATION WHILE GROWING UP



54.6 PERCENT

IN FOSTER CARE

[12 SURVIVORS]



40.9 PERCENT

WITH PARENTS

[9 SURVIVORS]

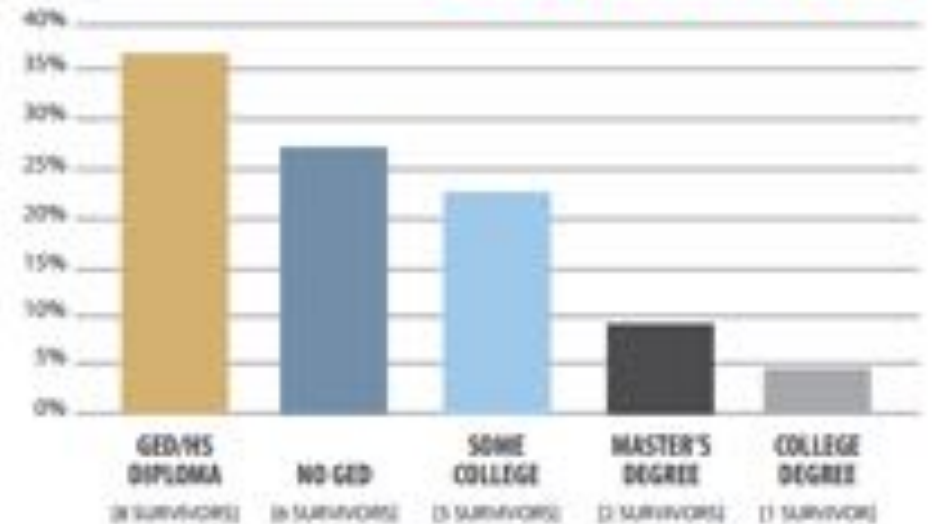


4.6 PERCENT

IN A GROUP HOME

[1 SURVIVOR]

LEVEL OF EDUCATION





Survivor Needs



Conclusions



Trauma-Informed

Awareness

Services

Specific Protocols



Survivor Voice

Training

Demand

In Her Words...

“People use discomfort as an excuse to not get involved or to not discuss it, to not talk about it... **It thrives because it's behind the scenes...** And if it's not behind the scenes anymore, it's a lot harder to keep it going.”



Recommendations

In Her Words...On Demand

“If you’re willing to buy a **child**, a **teenager**...Because you know they go on about their lives. They don’t lose their jobs. They don’t lose their families, their houses. So they don’t, there’s **no repercussions** from it. But for us, **there are scars**. There are scars that are left internally for us girls who are, you know, the ones who are **bought and sold**...”

Demand



PREVENTATIVE EDUCATION

that focuses on raising awareness about sex trafficking in order to foster a community-wide investment in ending commercial sexual exploitation;



INCREASED PENALTIES

for purchasing sex to deter both potential and former buyers;




INCREASED RECOGNITION

of the signs, vulnerabilities, and risk factors of trafficking, while teaching the importance of consent and respect in all relationships.

Services should be

1	Easy to access, coordinated support, with few barriers to entry
2	Holistic (tending to multiple needs including mental, physical, and social)
3	Trauma-informed
4	Culturally-appropriate
5	Journey-orientated
6	Collaborative
7	Survivor-informed
8	Non-judgmental

- 
- If you suspect human trafficking report to **911**
or

- National Human Trafficking Hotline

888-3737-8888 or

Text BeFree (233733)

Questions?

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